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Secretary for  
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# Department of Toxic Substances Control

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## WORK NOTICE

### Site Investigation Field Activities

Western Environmental LLC  
62-150 Gene Welmas Drive  
Mecca, CA 92254

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today (December 14, 2011) began overseeing sampling at the Western Environmental, Inc. (WEI) facility in Mecca. This effort is critical for understanding what materials are stored on the facility's property, and determine whether it poses a potential threat to human health in the neighboring community.

Following months of negotiation, DTSC and WEI reached an agreement that gives DTSC field staff access to the property where they will oversee sampling conducted by WEI and take "split" samples that DTSC will analyze in its own lab. WEI is on land owned by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. The sampling of soil piles will take about three days.

WEI is a soil treatment and recycling facility operating under a permit issued by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. WEI is permitted by the tribe to accept contaminated soil that is considered non-hazardous by federal standards. However, because California standards for regulating hazardous waste are stricter than federal standards, some of the soils accepted by WEI are considered hazardous waste under California regulation. As the agency responsible for overseeing the management of hazardous waste in California, DTSC is working with the tribe so that California standards for the treatment and management of hazardous waste can be implemented at WEI.

In this regard, DTSC is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the operation at WEI, including its existing stockpiles of treated and untreated soils. The purpose of the planned sampling activity is to characterize the chemical nature of these soils and evaluate any potential risk to surrounding communities. For the treated soils in particular, the sampling will determine if it has been adequately treated so as not to pose a risk to human health when it is shipped offsite and used at our communities

Sampling activities will be conducted on December 14, 15 and 16 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Efforts will be taken to minimize dust and noise. No street or road closures are expected to occur.

**How to Get More Information:** If you have any questions about the WEI facility, please contact the following DTSC staff listed below.

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